



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: AIS Observers

FROM: David C. Potter  
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SUBJECT: Manual Changes

This memo is to notify observers of recent changes with the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Manual and the Biological Sampling Manual. Updated manuals will not be sent you for a few months due to the lengthy publication process. In the meantime, we recommend that you start to use the updated logs and discard previous versions of each log. Please staple these updated logs to your Observer Program Manual for future reference. Logs that include major revisions are:

- Scallop Dredge Gear Log
- Scallop Dredge Haul Log
- Clam/Quahog Dredge Gear Log
- Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle, and Sea Bird Incidental Take Log
- Length Frequency LogBeach Anchored Gillnet Gear Log
- Longline Haul Log

We have created new logs for the Scallop Trawl Fishery. The Scallop Trawl Gear log is very similar to the Bottom Otter Trawl gear log except 2 new fields have been added: NET LOCATION (location of where net is deployed) and NETS CONNECTED (Record whether the two nets are connected to each other while fishing, by the center ground cables or bridles).

The Scallop Trawl Haul log is exactly the same as the revised Scallop Dredge Haul log. We have added an "aft" option under the DREDGE OBSERVED field (now called NET OBSERVED). Aft refers to a single net or dredge fished off the stern of the vessel.

The Scallop Trawl Off-Watch Haul Log is identical to the Scallop Off-Watch Haul Log.

The major changes that have occurred to the Observer Program Manual are:

- Scallop Dredge Gear Log - added a checkbox (aft) for when a single dredge is fished off the stern of the vessel. Observer should only check off this box if the dredge is fished off the stern.
- Scallop Dredge Haul Log - added an “aft” option under the DREDGE OBSERVED field.
- Clam/Quahog Dredge Gear Log - added field # OF NOZZLES - observers should record the total number of nozzles used on the dredge.
- Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle, and Sea Bird Incidental Take Log - added an “aft” option for NET NUMBER/DREDGE POSITION field.
- Length Frequency Log - added an “aft” option for DREDGE POSITION. This should only be filled out when sampling on scallop trips. Also the pre-written *Sea Scallops* and *8009* have been deleted to accommodate clam/quahog trips.
- Beach Anchored Gillnet Gear Log - leadline weight definition changed from: *The total weight of the leadline of the gear* to: *The average weight per net*.
- Longline Haul Log - added a code for BAIT KIND that is: *10 = Fish with binders/casings*. Also added a code for BAIT TYPE that is: *4 = Processed*.

Changes to the Biological Sampling Manual:

- New sampling protocols were added for the Purse Seine and Pair Trawl Fishery (see attached).
- Skate priorities have changed in all fisheries (see attached)
- Tilefish length code in Table 2 is changed from TL to FL.
- Sea Turtle Sampling Protocols - for live animals caught, observers should be collecting biopsy/tissue samples from turtles larger than 25 cm instead of larger than 30 cm.
- Sea Bird Sampling Protocols have been added. They are:

#### SEA BIRD SAMPLING PROTOCOLS

##### Minimum requirements:

- 1 Identify and photograph.
- 2 Check for the presence of bands.

**After** sampling of the catch according to Tables 1a-g and/or Table 3 is completed, retain dead, fresh whole birds if caught in the area between Maine-New Jersey. Breast feathers may be collected if whole bird cannot be retained.

Also in this packet are highlighted copies of all changes mentioned above. Any questions regarding these changes should be directed towards KB McArdle (508 495-2377) or [Katherine.McArdle@noaa.gov](mailto:Katherine.McArdle@noaa.gov).

Thank you.